

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 2-4. Claims 1 and 5-25 remain pending in the present application. Applicants amend claims 1, 5, 6, 10, and 13 for clarification, and refer to Figs. 2, 3, 5, 7, 25-30, and their corresponding description in the specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claim amendments. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 8 and 16-25 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Mobile IP and Security Issue: An Overview" to Perkins in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,536 to Basilier et al.; and claims 3, 6, 7, and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkins in view of Basilier et al., and further in view of "Mobile IP Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Requirements" to Glass et al. Applicants cancel claims 2-4 and amend claims 1, 5, 6, 10, and 13 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references.

The Examiner relied upon description of a mobile node ("MN") communicating from an external network back to a home agent ("HA") in its home domain in Perkins as alleged disclosure of the features of the claimed distribution means. The Examiner acknowledged that Perkins fails to disclose the features of the claimed memory means and relied upon Basilier et al. as a combining reference that allegedly discloses these features. The Examiner further acknowledged that the combination of Perkins and Basilier et al. would have failed to teach IPSec and relied upon Glass et al. as a combining reference that allegedly teaches this feature.

Perkins and Glass et al. describe techniques for checking the validity of a MN when the MN moves over networks. Neither reference discloses, however, any method for ensuring a safe communication path between a MN and "a correspondent node CN with whom the terminal communicates," as claimed in the present invention. For example, although Perkins describes an authentication method (distribution of SPI information and key information between MN-HA) for registering IP of the Mobile IP between a MN and a HA, when the MN is connected to a local domain that is external to its home domain, Perkins does not teach any method to ensure a safe communication path between a moving terminal MN and a destination terminal CN (which is connected to a foreign agent ("FA") in a local domain other than the home domain or HA in the home domain). The drawings in Perkins do not illustrate any such destination terminal, and thus, it is clear that Perkins does not contemplate a safe communication path between a MN and a CN. The same is true with respect to Glass et al.

Regarding Basilier et al., the reference refers to a server (AAAH) that carries out a user authentication by using a database of all subscribers. Please see, e.g., col. 1, lines 37-49. This relates to a technique for user authentication (verifying a user's validity), and not to establishing "a safe communication path" on which information or data for such a user authentication may be transmitted.

Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the references at the time the claimed invention was made, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest,

distribution means that distributes the VPN information to a first network apparatus, a second network apparatus, and a third network apparatus at the time of transmitting an authentication response message to a position registration request message from the terminal, the first network apparatus having a security gateway function of the home network, the second network apparatus a

security gateway function of the external network of a move destination, the third network apparatus having a security gateway function of a predetermined network in which a correspondent node CN with whom the terminal communicates exists, wherein the respective network apparatuses set a VPN path by the IP Sec. based on the distributed VPN information, to between the first network apparatus and the second network apparatus, between the first network apparatus and the third network apparatus, and/or between the second network apparatus and the third network apparatus respectively." as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

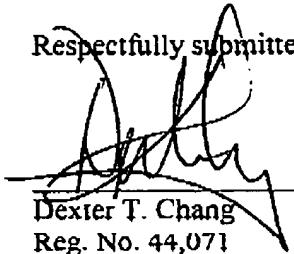
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claim 5 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Perkins and Basilier et al., individually and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 6, 10, and 13 include features similar to those of claim 1 cited above. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are, together with claims 7, 9, 11-12, and 14-15 dependent therefrom, respectively, patentable over Perkins, Basilier et al. and Glass et al., individually and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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